

GIFTS OF LOVE

Information Sheet

How it began...

Gifts of Love began many years ago with one Church wanting to show the love of Jesus in a practical way at Christmas. What followed was a wonderful response from individuals in the Church who generously gave what they could in the way of everyday food items, mixed with the luxury Christmas food items many of us take for granted. Each item was carefully put together to make up beautiful, luxury hampers which were then given out to families in need at Christmas.

Each family was identified by Children's services as the most vulnerable families who would benefit greatly from such a gift. The hampers weren't just a response to the need for food but, an act of kindness and a gift of love from the Church to the community.

Over time Churches, schools and other local organisations got involved from right across Sunderland including Washington and the Coalfields.

How it works

Meet Louise – Louise is a Trustee at Connect Network and because she is passionate about the Gifts of Love project, has kindly volunteered to oversee the project and be the main point of contact this year.

Donate - Churches/schools/organisations/individuals wishing to donate:

- Food items – can be dropped off at participating Churches or schools or contact Louise to arrange delivery/collection
- Money to buy food items – visit www.connectnetwork.uk/donate use reference 'hampers'.

Making a Hamper - Churches/schools/organisations who are making up hampers:

- Your church/school/organisation should identify a Gifts of Love Champion who will liaise with Louise.
- The Champion will:
 - Supply Louise with their phone number, e-mail address and estimate of how many hampers they will make.

- Louise will supply the Champion with an information pack which includes a poster (put your name on it so people within your church/school/organisation know who to contact), gift tags to attach to each hamper, and a 'suggested shopping list' of recommended food items to go into each hamper.
- We can arrange to give you baskets and cellophane to put the items in.

Referrals

- Referrals can be made by Churches, schools, support services etc.
- Details of referrals and their needs e.g. family hamper/single person hamper should be sent to Louise.
- Louise will match the list of referrals with the hampers made so that wherever possible the church or school positioned nearest to the family in need will distribute the hamper. (NB - this cannot always be the case as some families are very vulnerable and an assigned worker will need to deliver the hamper).

Gifts of Love Co-Ordinator

Louise Nicholson is overseeing this project and is the point of contact for Gifts of Love Champions and referrers

Tel: 07980007690

E-mail: louise@connectnetwork.uk

Hampers

See the 'suggested shopping list' of food items as a suggestion of recommended items for each hamper. Contact Louise if you need a sample hamper to use as a guide.

Plan with Dates (these are for guidance only)

Dates	What needs doing
Sun 31 st Oct	Sign up to take part in the Gifts of Love project by contacting Louise
Fri 26 th Nov	Referrals to be sent to Louise
Sun 5 th Dec	Food items and monetary donations to be submitted
w/c 6 th Dec	Hampers to be made up (if you need additional items to complete the hampers, please contact Louise)
w/c 6 th Dec	Hampers can be displayed in local churches or schools until delivered
From 6 th Dec	Hampers to be distributed
w/c 13 th Dec	Undelivered or spare hampers – Contact Louise to arrange collection
25 th Dec	Happy Christmas everyone!

SUGGESTED SHOPPING LIST

Box of Biscuits
Box of Crackers for Cheese
Cake or Dessert Pies
Sharing Bag/Tube of Crisps
Selection box
Tub/Large Pouch of Sweets
Large Bottle of Pop
Teabags
Coffee
Hot Chocolate
Beans/Spaghetti
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Fruit
Jam
Custard
Pasta Sauce
Pickled Onions
Pasta
Rice

Please keep in mind when donating items; this is a Christmas Gift, made & given with love

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CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

GIFTS OF LOVE

Connect Network are co-ordinating this project in partnership with Churches, Schools and community groups to ease the isolation and financial struggle felt by many at Christmas time.

Each hamper is a gift of love to the community, we invite you to be involved in this citywide act of kindness

www.connectnetwork.uk/christmas

connect
NETWORK
CHURCH AND COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

Contact Your Champion: